Secrets. IT.-27.—100,000.—28-5-48.

Development (1948) Department.

MS SERIES

G.O. No. 2220

Dated 3-5-1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Weights and Measures - Standardisation - Bill Published

Papers Recorded.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES CONFERENCE

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A conference of representative commercial interesss was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, the 25th July 1947, in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, the Hon. Sri K.Madhava Menon, Minister for Agriculture, presiding.

The following were present:-

Hon. Sri K.Madhava Menon (Chairman)
G.W. Priestley, Esq., Member, Board of Revenue.
Mr. W.T.Williams (Madras Chamber of Commerce)
Sri V.Panduranga Rao, President, South India Chamber Commerce.
Sri P. Janakirama Gupta, Andhra Chamber of Commerce.
Mr. M. Ameen Khaleeli) Muslim Chamber of
Mr. Sakoor Dawood) Commerce.
Sri V.S.Kudva, Kanara Chamber of Commerce.
Sri K.Venkataswami Nayudu, M.L.C.
Sri K.Govinda Variar, Secretary T.U.C.S.
Mr. Kainikara Muhammad Sahib, Merchant, Member K.P.CC Tirur, Malabar District.
Sri M. Bapineedu, M.L.A.
Mr. M.A.Salam, M.L.A.
Sri D.Munikannayya, Madras Chamber of Commerce.
Rao Bahadur V.K.Eradi, Malabar Chamber of Commerce, Calicut.

Mr. K.G.Menon, Joint Secretary, Development Department, and Mr. K.V.Rajagopalan, Joint Secretary, Legal Department were present.

The Chairman, in opening the Conference, said that he wanted to ascertain the opinion of the commercial interests about the necessity or otherwise of the draft Bill to regulate the use of weights and measures in the Province of Madras. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, standardisation of weights was a Central subject, and he presumed that the subject would continue to be so in the new Constitution. Due to several preoccupations, the Government of India may not be in a position before 1949. So this Government had thought it fit to put forward Bill Now. They were all aware of the existence of the Government of India Standards of Weights Act, 1939. The object of the present Bill was only to standardise the most common weighs and measures prevalent in the province which in some cases differed from taluk to taluk and even from village to village.

Mr. Priestley stressed the urgent need for such a measure, as the weights and measures now prevalent tended to dupe poor consumers.

Rao Bahadur Eradi pointed out that the weights and measures throughout India should be uniform. Regarding multiples of standar weights, it should be in decimal system to avoid complication in accounts.

The Chairman wanted to ascertain the view of the ee conference whether the use of weights and measures other than the standard ones should be prohibited or whether they too could be allowed to remain.

The Conference was unanimously of the opinion that all ~~weeee~~ weights and measures other than the standard

Cont.

ones should be prohibited and their use peralised.

Sri V.S.Kudva was not in favour of an interim legislation like the present Bill, but was for moving the Government of India to pass early legislation for the whole of India, so that the Indian weights and measures might have a definite relation to the world standard.

Mr. Munikannayya wanted the Provincial Government to proceed with the Bill, as there was likely to be some delay before the Government of India moved in the matter.

Mr. Janakirama Gupta said ~~tat~~ that if the object of the Bill was to standardise certain weights and measures and prohibit the use of others, he welcomed the Bill.

Mr. Bapineedu was for the Provincial Government deferring legislation till Government of India moved in the matter, so that uniformity mightbe ensured.

The Chairman pointed out that the Central Act of 1939 contained no penal provisions and it was more or less advisory. Provision was made in the present Bill for enforcing the penal provisions only after six months from the date of commencement of this Act, and he hoped that that was a sufficiently long period for the people to adopt themselves to the standard weights and measures.

Sri Panduranga Rao said that quite an elaborate procedure would have to be adopted under the Bill and changes would have to be made once again when the Central Government made their own laws. So he was for postponing the present Bill

Mr. Williams thought that it was absolutely essential for the whole of India to be on the same standard of weights and measures. He was against making any changes for a temporary period and was for waiting till the Central Act was passed.

Mr. K. Venkataswami Naidu asked whether any difficulty was experienced with the present weights and measures to necessitate an emergent act like the present one.

The Chairman explained that what was aimed at in the Bill was not alteration of the present weights and measures but only recognizing certain weights and measures prevailing through the province and prohibiting the use of weights and measures other than the recognized ones.

Mr. Munikannayya welcomed such a measure.

Mr. Priestley agreed with the object, as it would protect the consumer and dispel the confusion created by varying measures such as in vogue in Malabar.

Mr. Salam enquired whther any other province had undertaken legislation on similar lines and what the financial implications of the measure would be.

The Chairman replied that an attempt was made in Bombay. Finance was a matter of detail which could be considered later on.

The concensus of opinion was that legislation should be undertaken to standardise weights and measures on the basis of the weights and measures most commonly used in the province and not inconsistent with the Weights and Measures Act of 1939, that the use of all weights and measures other than those standardised should be prohibited and penalised, and that the Bill be published to elicit public opinion.

On the suggestion of Mr. Williams, the Chairman agreed to bring on to an uniform scale the difference standards of weight adopted for articles like cotton, poppy etc.

Mr. Panduranga Rao suggested the inclusion of weights like pagoda carat and rathi, used in weighing jewels and stones, in the Schedule. He had already sent a list of such weights to the Government.

The Chairman thanked the members, after which the Conference broke up. (4 p.m.)

Sd.....
26-7- 47.

Include in the file.

Sd.....
K.M.

Superintendent
Madras Record Office

3.8

Post Copy of the Telephonic Message Dated 27-6-47.

From
Joint Secretary,
Board of Revenue.

To
The Assistant Secretary,
Development Department

SUBJECT: - Weights and Measures - Standradisation - Holding of a conference.

Reference:- Your T.M. dated 23-6-47.

The Commissioner of Land Revenue and Irrigation desires to be intimated of the date and time of the conference sufficiently in advance in case he has to attend the conference, so as to enable him to study the file relating to the subject. It is therefore requested that the date and time of the Conference may be so intimated.

Sd.....
for Joint Secretary.

To A.S.

Submitted for perusal. D.O. fixing tentatively the 30th and 31st July for holding the Conference was sent to the Commissioner of Land Revenue also . No action is called for on this reference now.

sd.....

7-7-47.

THE MUSLIM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
South India.

P.O.Box No.1377
22, BROADWAY,

Ref No. Gt 121/37-47 G.T.Madras 5th July'47.

Sir,

Joint Secretary to Government
Development Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir,

Sub: Weights and Measures - Standardisation- Holding of Conference.

I have to acknowledge your letter No. 56961 G.11/44-10 dated the 30th June'47 referring to Government letter No. 58961 G.11/44-13 dated the 14th May, I shall be obliged if you will please forward to me immediately a copy of the previous letter referred to herein, as this is not traceable here.

Yours faithfully,
sd.....
Honv. Secretary.

Development Department.

Letter No. 58961 G II 44-20 dated - 7 - 47.

Sir,

Sub: Weights and Measures Standardisation - Holdi of a Conference.
Ref: Your letter GT 121-37/47 dated 5-7-47.

A copy of Government letter No. 58961 GII 44-13, dated 14-5-47 is enclosed.

Sd..... ....
8-7-47.

To
The Secretary , The Muslim Chamber of Commerce,
22, Broadway

Development Department.

Sub: Weights and Measures - Stnadardisation - Holding of a Conference.

To A.S.

It is proposed to convene a small conference under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) on the 25th and 26th July, 1947, commencing at 2 p.m. on the ~~wt~~ 25th to discuss the question of standardisation of weights and measure The Secretariat of the Madras Legislature may be requested to place the Council Hall at the disposal of the Conference during these two days.

Sd.....
5-7-47.

Sectt. of the M.L.

Submitted for orders whether the Council Chamber may be made available for holding the above mentioned confererı at 2 p.m. on 25th and 26th July 1947.

Sd.....
7-7-47.

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THE TAMIL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2, VANIAR STREET.
MADRAS.1

7th July 1947.

No.53/16.

The secretary,
Development Department,
Government of Madras,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

Subject:- Standardisation of weights and measure

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The Tamil Chamber of Commerce, Madras, understands that the Development Department have convened a Conference of the Chambers of Commerce to consider the question of standardisation of weights and measures in use in the Province and that July 30th Has been provisionally fixed for the Conference. The chamber notes with regret that it has not been given an opportunity to represent at the Conference, and therefore this Chamber requests that you will kindly correct the omission and ask it to send its repsentatives to serve at the Conference..

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Sd.....
Hony. Secretary,
for THE TAMIL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

To A.S.

Submitted for perusal. The Tamil Chamber of Commerce is not a recognised chamber - Please see the list of recognized Chambers at page 3 of G.O.. No.965 Development, dated 6-3-47 - The recognised chambers in Madras have all been invited to the Conference. It is for orders whether the Secretary the Tamil Chamber of Commerce may be informed that the Government do not consider it necessary to give representation subject to orders a draft letter is submitted for approval.

Sd.....
9-7-47.

May be approved.

Sd.....10-7-47.

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Development Department.

Letter No. 58961 GII 44- Dated 11-7-47.

To
The Secretary,
Tamil Chamber of Commerce,
2, Vâler Street, Madras.

Sir,

Subject: Weights and Measures - Standardisation-Holding of a Conference.
Reference:Your letter No 53/16 dated 7-7-47.

I am directed to state that the Government regret they are unable to ~~request~~ representation to your Chamber at the proposed conference.

Sd.....
10-7-47.